

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 OIC-02 /127 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IS

SUBJ: ADJUSTMENT OF ISRAEL'S TARIFF

REF: GENEVA 7624

1. PURSUANT TO ADJUSTMENT OF SPECIFIC DUTIES IN ISRAEL'S TARIFF TO COMPENSATE FOR DEVALUATION (REFTEL), ISRAEL MISSION HAS PROPOSED DRAFT DECISION FOR GATT COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION. DRAFT WOULD AUTHORIZE "SUCH ADJUSTMENT AS WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DEVALUATION OF THE ISRAELI POIND". THIS WAS WORDING USED IN 1967 DECISION FOR FINLAND (BISD, 15TH SUPPLEMENT), BUT OTHER DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC IN SPELLING OUT THAT ADJUSTMENT MUST BE NO MORE THAN PROPORTIONATE TO DEVALUATION (E.G.E., 1959 DECISION ON TURKEY, BISD, EIGHTH SUPPLEMENT). CONSISTENT WITH PARA 2 OF REFTEL, WE HAVE TOLD ISRAEL MISSION WE PREFER THAT CONCEPT OF MAXIMUM ADJUSTMENT "PROPORTIONATE" TO DEVALUATION BE INCULDED FOR SAKE OF CLARITY. THEY ARE CHECKING WITH OWN AUTHORITIES BUT ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEMS.

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2. DRAFT DECISION WOULD ALSO ALLOW 30 DAYS AFTER COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE ACTUAL ADJUSTMENT WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT, DURING WHICH TIME ANY CP COULD DECLARE IMPAIRMENT OF A CONCESSION. ISRAEL WOULD THEN DEFER THE ADJUSTMENT "PENDING CONSULTATION WITH THE CP CONCERNED", AND IF THE CLAIM WERE STILL MAINTAINED, THE ISSUE WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE CP'S OR THE COUNCIL. ALSO, WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER ANY PARTICULAR ADJUSTMENT, ANY CP COULD LODGE A CLAIM OF IMPAIRMENT; THEN CONSULTATIONS, AND IF NECESSARY DECISION BY CP'S OR COUNCIL, WOULD FOLLOW. THESE TIME LIMITS ARE MORE LIBERAL THAN THOSE APPEARING IN PREVIOUS DECISIONS.

3. ISRAEL DOES NOT INTEND SUBMIT LIST OF ITEMS AFFECTED TO COUNCIL, AND INDEED MOST PREVIOUS CP DECISIONS AS LISTED IN BISD SERIES WERE TAKEN WITHOUT LISTS. ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF ISRAEL'S TARIFF SCHEDULE INVOLVES EITHER SPECIFIC OR COMPOUND DUTIES, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI MISSION.

4. SO LONG AS DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION IS EXPLICIT THAT ADJUSTMENT MUST BE NO MORE THAN PROPORTIONATE TO DEVALUATION, WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND US SUPPORT APPROVAL.
ABRAMS

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